



The Mace

The Right Honourable Vincent Massey, when Governor General of Canada, presented the mace to Territorial Council during its Ottawa session in January, 1956. Similar in design to the traditional emblems in the parliaments of Canada and the Commonwealth, the mace embodies elements representative of the history and life of the North.

The orb which surmounts the crown, is made from whalebone left behind by Scottish whalers over 100 years ago. The crown itself is made from free copper from the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Below the crown is carved a circlet of bowhead whales. Curving out from beneath this circlet are four musk-ox horns from Ellesmere Island. Discs of pure gold from the Yellowknife mines are spaced between them. Midway on the head is a circular carving depicting the people and animals of the Arctic.

A narwhal tusk forms the shaft of the mace and the foot is topped by a carved piece of oak from the wreck of Sir William Perry's H.M.S. Fury. Two bands of porcupine quill work lend colour to the mace. The final section of whalebone is carved in the form of seals.

The work on the 35 pound, 5½ foot mace was done by Inuit craftsmen from Cape Dorset, on the southern tip of Baffin Island, in only 21 days. The original is now used only on the opening day of each winter session of council. A replica, produced in late 1956, is used for the remainder of the winter session and for all other sessions.

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION,
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The Seal

OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

On November 29, 1956, following adoption of the Coat of Arms of the Northwest Territories, approval was granted by the Government of Canada for a seal of the Northwest Territories. This seal consists of the Armorial Bearings of the Territories encircled by the words, "The Seal of the Northwest Territories".

From November 1869 until the approval of the present seal, the Great Seal of the Northwest Territories had consisted of the Royal Arms encircled by the words "The Seal of the Northwest Territories".



*The
Armorial
Bearings
Flag
Floral
Emblem
Tartan
Seal and
Mace*

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Armorial Bearings

The Armorial Bearings for the Northwest Territories were approved by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on February 17, 1957. The crest consists of two gold narwhals guarding a compass rose, symbolic of the magnetic north pole. The white upper third of the shield represents the polar ice pack and is crossed by a wavy blue line portraying the Northwest Passage. The tree line is reflected by the diagonal line separating the red and green segments of the lower portion of the shield. The green symbolizes the forested areas south of the tree line while the red stands for the barren lands north of it. The important bases of northern wealth, minerals and fur, are represented by gold billets in the green portion and the mask of white fox in the red.

The Flag

The design of the flag was adopted by the Council of the Northwest Territories as the official flag in January, 1969. It incorporates the Territorial Shield on a white centre section with blue sections on each end. The blue panels at either side of the flag represent the lakes and waters of the Northwest Territories. The white centre panel, equal in width to the two blue panels combined, symbolizes the ice and snow of the North.



The design was the result of a nation-wide competition in which thousands of entries were submitted to the flag committee of the Territorial Council.

The winning design was from Robert Bessant of Margaret, Manitoba.



Floral Emblem

The Council of the Northwest Territories, when it enacted the Floral Emblem Ordinance in June, 1957, established the Mountain Avenes as the official floral emblem of the Northwest Territories.

The Mountain Avenes, '*Dryas integrifolia*', typically has narrow basal leaves and supports a single white and yellow flower on a short stem. This member of the rose family grows abundantly in the Eastern and Central Arctic regions of Canada as well as in parts of the Mackenzie District. It is not found in densely wooded country but it does occur wherever the country is open and well drained, especially on high or rocky ground.

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The Tartan

The tartan contains many of the colours of the Northwest Territories. It contains the white of the snows, the green of the forests, the yellow of the birches in the fall, and the blue of the many lakes, rivers and oceans.

The idea of the tartan was proposed by Mrs. John Anderson-Thomson, a long-time resident of the Northwest Territories and of Yellowknife.

Upon her suggestion, research was carried out and an original design was developed and produced by the firm of Hugh MacPherson (Scotland) Limited of Edinburgh.

This firm is the leading designer of tartans in the world and after a certain amount of investigation extending over a period of two or three years, an imaginative and entirely original design was found.

The tartan is registered at the Court of the Lord Lyon, King of Arms of Scotland, and anyone, whether he has any Scottish blood or not, is entitled to wear it.

Rec'd: DEC 8 1978
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Price: Free